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HEALTH

15 OCT 1945

WEM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1944. The Minister of Health has directed that the report be prepared on the lines of that for 1943 so it will not assume its pre-war comprehensiveness. Restrictions previously imposed on the publication of population figures and some other matters have now been removed.

The report includes notes by the Sanitary Inspector on matters with which he is most particularly concerned, for his co-operation and help during the year I wish to express my thanks.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

L. WILSON EVANS.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

| Name. | Qualifications. | Office held | Whole or Part time. |
|------------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| L. Wilson Evans, | M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. | Medical Officer of Health. | Part. |
| A.P. Roberts. | A.M.Inst.B.E., C.R.S.I. | Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. | Whole |

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1944.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----|
| Population | 10,470. | | |
| Births | M. | F. | |
| Logitimate | 94 | 79 | |
| Illogitimate | <u>11</u> | <u>7</u> | |
| Total | 105 | 86 | 191 |
| Birth rate per 1,000 population | 18.0 | | |
| Birth rate England and Wales | 17.6. | | |
| Death of Infants under 1 year | M. | F. | |
| | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Logitimate | <u>1</u> | <u>3</u> | |
| Illogitimate | 1 | - | |
| Death of infants per 1,000 births | | 26 | |
| Death of infants England and Wales | | 46 | |
| Still births | M. | F. | |
| | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Logitimate | <u>1</u> | <u>3</u> | |
| Illogitimate | 1 | - | |
| Still births per 1,000 population | 0.47 | | |
| Still births England and Wales | 0.50 | | |
| Deaths | M. | F. | |
| | 72 | 46 | 118 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population | 11.2 | | |
| Death rate England and Wales | 11.6 | | |
| Death from Measles | Nil | | |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough | Nil | | |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years | Nil | | |
| Maternal Deaths | Nil | | |

Chief Causes of Death.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----|----|
| | M. | F. |
| Heart Disease | 23 | 15 |
| Cancer | 8 | 9 |
| Intracranial vascular lesions | 6 | 7 |
| Violence | 5 | 2 |
| Bronchitis | 0 | 5 |
| Nephritis | 3 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 1 |

The district as indicated by the above figures is in quite a healthy condition. The births have exceeded the record figures of 1942 and the number of deaths is exceptionally low. The natural increase of the population as a result of the excess of births over deaths is 73. The infant mortality figure is only 3 above the record figure for 1941. There were no deaths from infectious diseases and a reduction in deaths from Cancer. For the sixth consecutive year there have been no deaths as a result of child birth. This is a noteworthy record.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Cases notified during the year

Cerebro-spinal Fever 1; Diphtheria 1; Erysipelas 1; Dysentery 1; Measles 12; Pneumonia 13; Puerperal Pyrexia 1; Scarlet Fever 15; Whooping Cough 10.

Distribution according to age and sex

| | 0-1. | 1-3. | 3-5. | 5-10. | 10-15. | 15-25. | 25-45. | 45-65. | 65 over | Totals |
|--|------|------|------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| | M.F. | M.F. | M.F. | M.F. | M. F. | M. F. | M. F. | M. F. | M. F. | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Cerebro- | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spinal | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fever | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Dysentery | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Measles | - | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | - | - | 12 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | 1 | 13 |
| Scarlet F. | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 22 |
| Whooping C. | - | 1 | 3 | - | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 13 |
| Puerperal | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pyrexia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |

Number of cases removed to Isolation Hospital Diphtheria 1.
Scarlet Fever 11.

There was no excessive infectious disease during the year. The numbers notified of most of the diseases were well below the figures for last year. Scarlet Fever was of a mild form and the number of cases was about the average. There were 3 deaths from Pneumonia.

No deaths were recorded from any other infectious diseases.

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Diphtheria Immunisation

| | Under 5 years. | 5-15 yrs. | Total |
|---|----------------|-----------|-------|
| No. of children who completed the full course of immunisation during 1944 | 115 | 41 | 156 |
| Approximate estimated number of children in the area at December 31st, 1944... .. | 866 | 1706 | |
| Percentage of children considered to be immunised at December 31st, 1944 | 42% | 58% | |

There were no cases of Diphtheria in children under 15 years during the year.

There was a slight increase in the percentage of children immunised but the figures are not good. Not enough of the very young children are protected. Only 37% of the children who reach the age of 1 year during 1944 were immunised. The Council is helping to encourage mothers to have their infants done by allowing them to have treatment carried out by their own doctors and, where they live some distance away from the surgery, in their own homes. In this way mothers who think their babies might be upset by going to the welfare centre or school, or who have difficulty in taking them owing to the distance or household duties have the added opportunity of having their children protected from a dangerous disease.

Tuberculosis

| | Respiratory. | | Non-respiratory. | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----|------------------|----|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| New cases | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Service cases | - | - | - | - |
| Transfer from other districts | 1 | - | - | - |

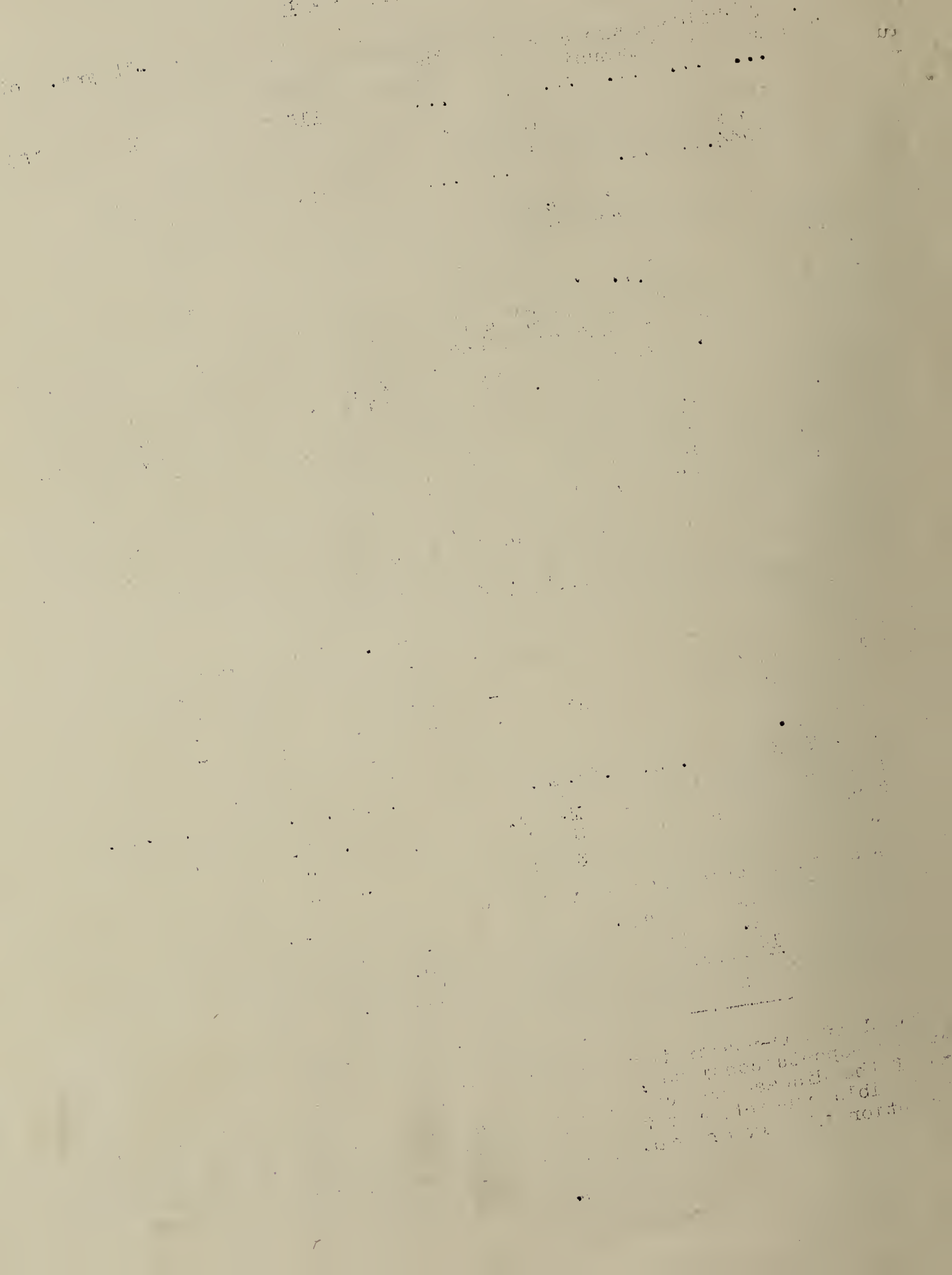
| Respiratory. | Non-respiratory. |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ages. M. 7 mths. 31.45. F.33.43. | M. 6.9.15. F. 4.8.10.13.39. |

| | M. | F. | M. | F. |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Admitted to Sanatorium or Hospital | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| Deaths | 3 | 2 | - | - |

Number of cases on Register at December 31st, 1944.

| Respiratory. | | Non-respiratory | | Total |
|--------------|----|-----------------|----|-------|
| M. | F. | M. | F. | |
| 14 | 14 | 12 | 20 | |
| 28 | | 32 | | 60 |

The trend of non-respiratory tuberculosis to increase noted in previous reports continued, and as at least 30% of all cases of this form of the disease are considered to be due to bovine infection the possible connection with this increase and the increase in the consumption of milk especially by children deserves consideration.



Number of cases of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in the five year periods:- 1936-1939 17 cases. 1940-1944 31 cases.

Percentage increase of second period over the first 82%

Notification of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population for England and Wales for 1942 .83

Average rate of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population for 5 years 1940-1944 for Wem Rural District 1.60

Water.

Unsatisfactory reports of samples of well supplies to several parts of the district have been received viz: Ash, Coton, Edstaston, Shawbury and Tilstock. Unfortunately there has been serious delay in having the necessary work carried out to improve these supplies as will be seen by the Sanitary Inspector's Report. Of the piped supplies, samples show them to be of a good quality. Reports of Bacteriological examination are as follows.

| | Grinshill. | Prees. | Barkers Green Raw. | Chlorinated. |
|--|------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------|
| No. of organisms in 3 days at 20°C | 640 | 1400 | 5 | 6 |
| No. of organisms in 48 hours at 37°C | 40 | 1 | 5 | 10 |
| Probable number of Presumptive Coliform Bacilli present in 100 cc | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |
| Faecal Coli absent in 100cc. | | 100cc. | - | - |
| Costridium Welchii absent in 50cc. | | 50cc. | - | - |

The Barker's Green supply which is that of the Wem Urban District is the only Chlorinated supply.

Proportion of dwelling houses and population supplied from public water mains is approximately 8%.

A further 6% receive a piped supply from privately owned supplies.

Information of the proportion supplied by means of standpipes is not available.

A comprehensive scheme to supply the district with a piped supply is being prepared by the consultant engineer appointed by the Council and it is hoped that as a result a very greatly increased proportion of houses will have a piped supply of water satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

Housing: There appears to be some prospect now that work on the erection of the 80 permanent houses proposed for the first year's programme may be commenced by the end of 1945. The Council has made arrangements for the survey of all houses in the district of a rateable value of £20 and under. It was anticipated in the Hobhouse Report that this would be completed by the end of the first year after the cessation of hostilities in Europe. The chief purpose of the survey is to enable the Government to know the requirements for houses throughout the Rural Districts so that a long term programme can be produced.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Milk.

The number of producers of milk registered are 516, 124 inspections were made. Several cases were brought to my notice of producers neglect to lime washing, but the excuse has been given of shortage of labour. 5 new cowsheds were erected during the year.

Housing:

Two cases of unfit housing conditions were dealt with, one at Whixall. This house is being reconditioned. The ceiling is being constructed to meet the Council's Bye Laws and two extra rooms are being added to the dwelling, also bathroom and sanitary convenience. The other case is at Pear Tree Cottage, Newtown. This house is being reconstructed on similar lines to the above house.

Seventy one housing inspections were made but no serious defects were found with the exception of two at Hadnall and one on the Souldon Estate. The two at Hadnall are being reconditioned. The one on the Souldon Estate is empty and is not being re-occupied.

Water Supply:

During the year complaints were made as to the unsatisfactory water supply to the Parish of Clive. This is a private supply and I found that the pumping engine was at fault. This has now been remedied.

The Council have appointed Messrs. Thomas, Morgan and Partners of Pontypridd as their consultants, to prepare a piped supply in this area. This is a very desirable scheme and it is hoped to commence the scheme at the end of the year.

Several attempts have been made to get the wells examined and cleaned out. This was found impossible owing to shortage of labour. Messrs. Wyatts of Whitchurch who are the Council's engineers have promised to commence work on the wells in a few weeks. No alterations were made to water supplies, particulars of which were given in last year's report.

Bugs and Fleas:

Rooms which are infested with bugs and fleas are sprayed with a strong disinfectant and sulphur candles placed in the room and sealed. Tenants are supplied with disinfectant and are advised to strip the paper of the walls, and wash all walls and floors with hot water which has been added disinfectant.

Rats:

Rodine is available and given out in the various parishes. With the exception of agricultural buildings, no major infection of rats was reported.

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Meat:

Regular visits have been made to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Whitchurch and the following inspections made.

| | Cattle. | Sheep. | Pigs. | Condemmed. |
|--------------------|---------|--------|-------|---|
| Total inspections, | 335. | 808. | Nil. | 4 beasts carcasses and offal. 5 beasts heads. 3 beasts livers. 4 sheep livers. 1 lamb carcass and offal. Several portions. |

During the year inspections have been made at the N.A.A.F.I. and the following food found unfit for human consumption.

57 tins of meat; 43 lbs. bacon and ham; 10 lbs. sausage.

Milk:

104. tins of milk were condemned.

Other foods.

27 tins of jam, fish etc. were condemned. Among other foods condemned were cereals, rice and cheese.

Oranges:

385 lbs . were condemned during the year.

The following plans were submitted before my Council in 1944.

For alteration or addition to houses 17.

One of these was reconditioned under the Housing Rural Workers Act.

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